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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Miss Maymouna Diop (Senegal), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.57

Food and agricultural development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, the Cartagena Commitment, 1/ the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, contained in its annex to its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 2/ and the various consensus agreements and conventions, especially Agenda 21, 3/ which were adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

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1/ See TD/364, part one, sect. A.

2/ See "Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990" (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

3/ See A/CONF.151/26 (Vols. I, II and Corr.1, and III).

Reaffirming also its resolution 45/207 of 21 December 1990 on food and agricultural problems and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/32 of 30 July 1992,

Reaffirming further that the right to food is a universal human right that should be guaranteed to all people,

Deeply concerned that hunger and malnutrition have been increasing in many areas, particularly in Africa,

Expressing deep concern that the volume of world food and agricultural production fell in 1991, the first global decline since 1983, and that food stocks declined rapidly,

Recognizing the importance of stimulating food production and productivity in developing countries through appropriate policies, taking fully into account Agenda 21, and through a suitable economic environment, including a more open international trading system, for the development of a viable agricultural sector and improved food security, and in this context noting with concern that the negotiations regarding the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations have not yet been completed and expressing the hope that they will reach a rapid, balanced and comprehensive conclusion,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on trends in the international market for agricultural and tropical products, developments in the liberalization of international trade in agriculture and tropical products, and follow-up to the section on agriculture of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/ as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council at its eighteenth session; 5/

2. Affirms that increasing food production and improving access to food by low-income people in developing countries will significantly contribute to the alleviation of poverty and the elimination of malnutrition and to helping raise their standard of living;

3. Stresses the importance of stimulating food and agricultural production and productivity in developing countries in order to achieve sustainable economic growth and development and on this basis create the conditions for more rapid industrialization and diversification of their economic activities, in particular in the agro-industrial sector;

4/ A/47/395.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/47/19), part one.

4. Calls upon the international community to consider food and agricultural issues in a comprehensive and multidimensional manner;

5. Encourages all relevant organs of the United Nations system dealing with food and agriculture, as well as regional and subregional financial institutions, to improve their cooperation and coordination in the field of food and agricultural development;

6. Urges all countries, in particular developed countries, to strengthen their efforts to work towards a more equitable international environment, in particular a fairer, more open and viable international agricultural trading system that will stimulate food production and productivity in developing countries, and in this connection stresses the urgent need for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, as well as the need to give effect to the mid-term review agreements, in which it was stated that ways should be developed to take into account the possible negative effects of the reform process on net food-importing developing countries;

7. Calls upon the international community to support scientific and technological research and training as well as capacity-building in developing countries in order to promote sustainable agricultural development;

8. Emphasizes the urgency of strengthening international cooperation in the transfer of environmentally sound agricultural technology;

9. Requests the United Nations development system to continue its support in providing technical cooperation for agricultural and rural development;

10. Requests the international community to continue to assist and support technical cooperation, including technical cooperation among developing countries in the area of food and agricultural development;

11. Stresses the importance of finance for investment in the agricultural sector, and urges the international community to take further determined action in support of the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

12. Requests the Secretary General, in consultation with relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit to it at its forty-ninth session a report on food production, including agro-industrial products, international markets for agricultural and tropical products, and the state of global food security, taking into particular account the needs of all developing countries, including net food-importing countries;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Food and agricultural development".